

Pendleton Correctional Facility Recommendation for ACA Accreditation

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said Commissioner

Indianapolis, Indiana (April 13, 2006) - Commissioner J. David Donahue announced today that Pendleton Correctional Facility was recommended for accreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The facility scored a perfect 100 percent on the mandatory standards established by the ACA and scored a 97.7 percent on non-mandatory standards.

“The cornerstone of the Department of Correction is promoting public safety. Staff at the Pendleton Correctional Facility have made great strides this year, raising the operations and program standards at this facility,” said Commissioner Donahue. “It is humbling for me to hear the chairman of this ACA audit team speak about the level of programming at this facility-- second to none -- in the country because of his comparisons in corrections at the maximum security level. Not only is it a phenomenal demonstration of your talents, but it marries up exactly to what the agency is promoting about re-entry, public safety and doing the right thing.”

In order to pass the ACA audit, a correctional facility must comply with 100 percent of 63 mandatory standards and 90 percent of 471 non-mandatory standards. ACA's standards reflect the current national policies and procedures with regard to the care, custody and control of adult offenders.

Timothy Keohane, Chairman of the ACA Board noted that the Audit Committee was particularly impressed with the professionalism, excellence in programming initiatives and motivation of staff at the facility.

Keohane commented, “This is a Maximum control facility. Typically, when you go to a maximum control, facility the level of programming goes down. Programming is usually available at the minimum and medium facilities....At this facility, one of the biggest shocks to us is that the academic and vocational programs, PLUS program, mental health, substance abuse and industries are all available

here. There is not a legitimate complaint an offender can make at this facility by saying there is no programming.”

The recommendation for accreditation for the Pendleton Correctional Facility confirms Indiana’s national leadership role in corrections.

“Today’s results are a testament to the dedication of facility employees. We will continue to work to improve any opportunities identified during the audit and maintain continuous compliance with the standards, including physical plant improvements,” said Facility Superintendent Stanley Knight. “This is a great milestone for the Department.”

“Congratulations to the Pendleton Correctional Facility employees for driving excellence and taking pride in their work! I look forward to making the official announcement at the next ACA conference,” added Donahue.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department’s home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department’s Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.